

*Becoming Byzantine: Children and
Childhood in Byzantium*

Symposiarchs: Arietta Papaconstantinou, University of
Paris, and Alice-Mary Talbot, Dumbarton Oaks
Dumbarton Oaks Symposium, 28–30 April 2006

BYZANTINISTS HAVE SHOWN little interest in children and childhood, even after the fin-de-siècle surge of studies on that topic in classical, medieval, and early modern studies. Two recently published books and two doctoral dissertations devoted respectively to orphans, childhood disease, children's education, and the visual representation of children, do show an increasing curiosity about the topic. Even so, the bibliography on Byzantine childhood remains a short one, and does not include any substantial general overview. One of the aims of the conference was to provide this overview, by looking into as yet neglected aspects of childhood in Byzantium.

The focus of the conference was on the Middle and Late Byzantine periods, the ones most neglected hitherto, although some of the papers included materials from Late Antiquity as well. The papers concentrated on the basic subjects of definition, legal and social status, representation, life and death, education and acculturation, but issues of everyday life, such as toys and games, were discussed as well.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Introduction by Arietta Papaconstantinou

Günter Prinzing
(University of Mainz)

*The Status of Children and Adolescents
in Byzantium under Law and in Court*

Jane Baun
(Oxford University)
*Coming of Age in Byzantium:
Rites of Passage for Children*

Dimiter Angelov
(University of Birmingham)
*Ideal Children:
The Childhood of Great Men and Women*

Béatrice Caseau
(University of Paris IV)
*Holy Childhood, Ordinary Childhood:
Children in Saints' Lives*

Cecily Hennessy
(Courtauld Institute)
*The Visual Representation of
Children in Byzantine Art*

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Youval Rotman
(Yale University)
Working Kids

Richard Greenfield
(Queen's University, Kingston)
*Children in Byzantine Monasteries: Innocent
Hearts or Vessels in the Harbor of the Devil?*

Timothy Miller
(Salisbury University)
From Foster Care to the Great Orphanotropheion

Marie-Hélène Congourdeau
(CNRS, Paris)
Les variations du désir d'enfant à Byzance

Alice-Mary Talbot
(Dumbarton Oaks)
The Death and Burial of Children

Chryssi Bourbou
(University of Crete)
*On the Bioarchaeology of Birth and Death:
Aspects of Childhood and Subadult Mortality
Patterns during the Early and Middle
Byzantine Times in Greece*

Chryssi Bourbou
(University of Crete)
Sandra Garvie-Lok
(University of Alberta)
*Breastfeeding and Weaning Patterns: Evidence
from Human Remains and Written Sources*

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
Nikolaos Kalogeras
(University of the Aegean)
Childhood Education in Byzantium

Claudia Rapp
(University of California, Los Angeles)
*Constantinople and the Imperial Court as a
Classroom: The Shaping of a Social Identity*

Brigitte Pitarakis
(CNRS, Paris)
The Material Culture of Childhood

Ronald Finucane
(Oakland University)
*Conclusions and Comparisons
with the Western Medieval World*